

The arc length of the curve is the total distance traveled by the particle along the curve. The speed of the curve at any time  $t$  is the magnitude of the velocity vector  $\vec{r}'(t)$ . The arc length of the curve from  $t = a$  to  $t = b$  is the total distance traveled by the particle from  $t = a$  to  $t = b$ . The speed of the curve at any time  $t$  is the magnitude of the velocity vector  $\vec{r}'(t)$ .

Ex. Reparameterize  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 3\sin(t), 2t, 3\cos(t) \rangle$  by arc length (from  $t=0$ ).  
 Sol: First, we compute the arc length of the function

$$\begin{aligned} s(t) &= \int_0^t |\vec{r}'(q)| dq & \vec{r}'(t) &= \langle 3\cos(t), 2, -3\sin(t) \rangle \\ &= \int_0^t \sqrt{13} dq & |\vec{r}'(t)| &= \sqrt{9\cos^2(t) + 4 + 9\sin^2(t)} \\ &= |\sqrt{13}t|_0^t = \sqrt{13}t - 0 = \sqrt{13}t & &= \sqrt{9+4} = \sqrt{13} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } s(t) = \sqrt{13}t$$

$$t = \frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}$$

$$\text{Finally, our reparameterized function is } \vec{p}(s) = \vec{r}(t(s))$$

$$= \langle 3\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right), \frac{2s}{\sqrt{13}}, 3\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right) \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{NB: For the curve above, } \vec{p}'(s) &= \left\langle \frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right), \frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}, -\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right) \right\rangle \\ \therefore \text{the magnitude of } \vec{p}'(s) &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right)\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right)\right)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{9}{13}\cos^2\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right) + \frac{4}{13} + \frac{9}{13}\sin^2\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right)} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{9}{13} + \frac{4}{13}} = \sqrt{\frac{13}{13}} = 1 \text{ for all } s \end{aligned}$$

Hence, this reparameterized curve has unit speed. In general, a curve parameterized by arc length always has unit speed.

Now, for some physics

Ex. Find the velocity and acceleration of  $\vec{r}(t) = (2^t, t^2, \ln(t+1))$  at  $t=1$   
 $2t = \frac{1}{1+t}t$

Sol:  $\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t)$   
 $= (\ln(2)2^t e^{\ln(2)t}, 2t, \frac{1}{1+t}) = (\ln(2)2^t, 2t, \frac{1}{1+t})$

So at  $t=1$ ,  $\vec{v} = (\ln(2)2^1, 2(1), \frac{1}{1+1})$

$= (2\ln(2), 2, \frac{1}{2})$

$\vec{a}(t) = \vec{r}''(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = (\ln(2)^2 2^t e^{\ln(2)t}, 2, -\frac{1}{(1+t)^2})$   
 $= (\ln(2)^2 2^t, 2, -(1+t)^{-2})$

$\vec{a}(1) = (\ln(2)^2 (2(1)), 2, -(1+1)^{-2})$

$= (2\ln(2)^2, 2, -\frac{1}{4})$

Ex. Find the velocity and position functions of the curve with  $\vec{a}(t) = (\sin(t), 2\cos(t), 6t)$  and  $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle$ ,  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, -1, -4 \rangle$

Sol:  $\vec{v}(t) = \int \vec{a}(t) dt$

$= \langle -\cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3t^2 \rangle + \vec{c}$

Now  $\langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle = \vec{v}(0) = \langle -\cos 0, 2\sin 0, 3(0)^2 \rangle + \vec{c}$

$= \langle -1, 0, 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$

$\therefore \vec{c} = \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle - \langle -1, 0, 0 \rangle = \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle$

$\therefore \vec{v} = \langle -\cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3t^2 \rangle + \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle$

$= \langle 1 - \cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3t^2 - 1 \rangle$

Now  $\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt$

$= \langle t - \sin(t), -2\cos(t), t^3 - t \rangle + \vec{c}$

$\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0 - \sin 0, -2\cos 0, 0^3 - 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$

$\langle 0, -1, -4 \rangle = \langle 0, -2, 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$

$\vec{c} = \langle 0, 3, -4 \rangle$

$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t - \sin(t), 3 - \cos(t), t^3 - t - 4 \rangle$



Ex. When is the speed of particle with position function  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^2, 5t, t^2 - 16t \rangle$  at a minimum?

Sol:  $\vec{r}'(t) = \langle 2t, 5, 2t - 16 \rangle$

$$f(t) = |\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{2t^2 + 5^2 + (2t - 16)^2}$$

$$f(t) = \sqrt{4t^2 + 25 + 4t^2 - 64t + 256}$$

$$= \sqrt{8t^2 - 64t + 281}$$

$$\therefore f'(t) = \frac{1}{2}(8t^2 - 64t + 281)^{-1/2} (16t - 64)$$

$$= 8t - 32$$

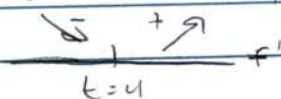
$$(8t^2 - 64t + 281)^{1/2}$$

Note that  $64^2 - 4 \cdot 8 \cdot 281 = 2^{12} - 25 \cdot 281 = 2^{12} - 25 \cdot 256 = 2^{12} - 25 \cdot 2^8 = 2^{12} - 2^{13} < 0$

$\therefore 8t^2 - 64t + 281 = 0$  has no real solutions

$\therefore$  the only critical point of this function is at  $8t - 32 = 0$  i.e.  $t = 4$

Now applying the 1st deriv test, if  $f'(t) < 0$  on  $t < 4$  and  $f'(t) > 0$  on  $t > 4$ , then  $t = 4$  corresponds to a minimum



Now  $f'(0) = \frac{-32}{\sqrt{281}} < 0$  and  $f'(5) = \frac{8}{\sqrt{1}} > 0$

Hence the particle is slowest at  $t = 4$

Recall: If  $f(t) > 0$  for all  $t$  and  $f$  is diff. for all  $t$ , then  $f$  is minimized exactly when  $(f(t))^2$  is minimized

Alt. Sol:  $F(t) = |\vec{r}'(t)|^2 = (8t^2 - 64t + 281)$  as before

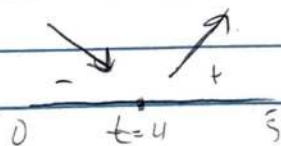
Now we minimize  $(f(t))^2 = 8t^2 - 64t + 281$

As before,  $8t^2 - 64t + 281 \neq 0$  for all  $t$

Now  $(f(t))^2 = g(t)$  is minimized via the 1st deriv test

$$g'(t) = 16t - 64$$

$$g'(t) = 0 \text{ if } t = 4$$



$\therefore$  the particle speed is minimized at  $t = 4$

Ex. A ball is kicked at angle  $60^\circ$  above ground. If it lands 90m away, at what speed was it thrown? Accel due to grav =  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$

Sol:

$$\vec{a}(t) = \langle 0, -9.8 \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = |\vec{v}(0)| \langle \cos \frac{\pi}{3}, \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \rangle = c \langle \frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle$$



$$\therefore \vec{v}(t) = \int \vec{a}(t) dt = \langle \alpha, -9.8t + \beta \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = \frac{c}{2} \langle 1, \sqrt{3} \rangle$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{c}{2} \\ \beta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore \vec{v}(t) = \langle \frac{c}{2}, -9.8t + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt = \langle \frac{c}{2}t + r, -4.9t^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct + s \rangle$$

Now at some time  $t_0$  we have

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle = \langle \frac{c}{2}t_0 + r, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 + s \rangle$$

\*We may assume  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$ \*

Now notice with our assumption  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$  we obtain  $\langle r, s \rangle = 0$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle \frac{c}{2}t_0, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 \rangle \therefore \frac{c}{2}t_0 = 90 \text{ so } t_0 = \frac{180}{c}$$

$$\therefore -4.9\left(\frac{180}{c}\right)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c = 0$$



Ex. A ball is kicked at an angle  $\theta$  to the horizontal with an initial speed  $v_0$  and lands 10m away. At what speed was it thrown? Assume  $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ .

Sol.

$$a(t) = \langle 0, -9.8 \rangle$$

$$j(0) = |j(0)| \langle \cos \frac{\pi}{3}, \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \rangle = c \langle \frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle$$

$$\therefore \vec{v}(t) = \int \vec{a}(t) dt$$

$$= \langle \alpha, -9.8t + \beta \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = \frac{c}{2} \langle 1, \sqrt{3} \rangle$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{c}{2} \\ \beta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore v(t) = \langle \frac{c}{2}, -9.8t + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt$$

$$= \langle \frac{c}{2}t + \gamma, -4.9t^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct + \delta \rangle$$

Now at some time  $t_0$  we have

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle = \langle \frac{c}{2}t_0 + \gamma, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 + \delta \rangle$$

\*We may assume  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$  \*

Now notice with our assumption  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$  we

obtain  $\langle \gamma, \delta \rangle = 0$

$$r(t_0) = \langle \frac{c}{2}t_0, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 \rangle \therefore \frac{c}{2}t_0 = 90 \text{ so } t_0 = \frac{180}{c}$$

$$\therefore -4.9\left(\frac{180}{c}\right)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c = 0$$